

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1, 3-10, 13, 14, and 16-27 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 5, 8-10, 13, 14, 16-20, and 22-27 are amended; and Claims 2, 11, 12, and 15 are canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer, by the present amendment. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; Claims 1, 5, 9, and 27 were objected to because of informalities; Claims 1, 2, and 6-8 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Nakashima et al. (hereinafter "Nakashima"); Claims 10, 12, 15, and 18-27 were rejected to under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Berkes et al. (hereinafter "Berkes"); Claims 3-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Nakashima in view of Tokutake et al. (hereinafter "Tokutake"); Claims 9, 11, and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berkes in view of Nakashima; Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berkes in view of Watanabe; and Claims 14 and 16 are allowed.

Regarding the objections to the specification, the specification is amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the specification be withdrawn.

Regarding the objections to Claims 1, 5, 9, and 27, those claims are amended in view of the Examiner's comments. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to Claims 1, 5, 9, and 27 be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Nakashima, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 is directed to a liquid type image forming apparatus including: a latent image carrier configured to carry a latent image; a developing device configured to develop the latent image on the latent image carrier into a visualized image by a liquid developer containing a toner in a carrier liquid; a primary transfer device configured to electrostatically and intermediately transfer the visualized image on the latent image carrier onto an intermediate transfer body; and a secondary transfer device configured to electrostatically transfer the visualized image on the intermediate transfer body onto a recording body. A fluorine compound is contained in at least a surface of said intermediate transfer body. A heating device configured to heat the intermediate transfer body is provided.

As amended, Claim 1 further recites that the heating device is disposed at a downstream side of the secondary transfer device and an upstream side of the primary transfer device, and is thereby configured to heat the intermediate transfer body at a position after the visualized image has been transferred onto the recording body and before another visualized image is intermediately transferred from the latent image carrier.

In a non-limiting example, an operation of the claimed apparatus is described with respect to Figures 1 and 2. As shown, an image is transferred to an intermediate transfer belt 51 at a first nip formed by a photoconductor 1 and primary transfer roller 53, and transferred from the intermediate transfer belt 51 to a transfer paper P at a second nip formed by a secondary bias roller 56 and secondary transfer backup roller 56. The intermediate transfer belt 51 is heated at a third nip, which is formed by a heating roller and heating backup roller 55, arranged downstream of the second nip and upstream of the first nip.

A surface layer 51b of the intermediate transfer belt 51 includes fluorine, which has a direction that may be changed by pressure at the first and second nips. Heating of the

intermediate transfer belt 51 at the third nip permits the direction of the fluorine to be changed back prior to transfer of the next image at the first nip.<sup>1</sup>

The Office Action cites Nakamura's as teaching the claimed heating device. However, as Nakamura's heating device 18 is disposed upstream of the position at which the image is transferred to the printing medium, the heating device 18 does not teach the claimed heating device.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1, 2, and 6-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Nakashima be withdrawn.

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 10, 12, 15, and 18-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Berkes, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended Claim 10 is directed to an image forming apparatus including a device configured to eliminate a substance on an intermediate transfer body. The device has a form roller with a surface roughness rougher than a surface of the intermediate transfer body. The substance on the intermediate transfer body is eliminated by rubbing the surface of said intermediate transfer body with the form roller.<sup>2</sup>

The Office Action cites Berkes' buffing brush 40 and intermediate transfer member 29 as teaching the claimed form roller and intermediate transfer body, respectively. As Berkes is silent as to the comparative surface roughness of the buffing brush 40 and intermediate transfer member 29, Berkes does not teach the claimed form roller.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 10, 12, 15, and 18-27 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Berkes be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 3-5 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Nakashima in view of Tokutake, Applicants submit that Tokutake does not cure the above-

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<sup>1</sup> Specification, page 31, lines 6-14.

<sup>2</sup> For support, see Specification, page 53, lines 4-7.

noted deficiencies of Nakashima; and, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

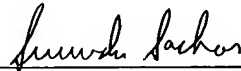
Regarding the rejection of Claims 9, 11, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berkes in view of Nakashima, Applicants submit that Nakashima does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Berkes; and, therefore, respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Berkes in view of Watanabe, Applicants submit that Watanabe does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Berkes. Further, as the cited metal blade of Watanabe is used to "adjust" the amount of silicon oil (i.e., thickness) applied to an intermediate transfer member 6, the metal blade does not rub a surface of the intermediate transfer member 6, as claimed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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